(b) In the current economic scenario, with its accent on liberalisation, the time tested instrument of futures trading is considered as an effeffctive instrument for price stabilisation. As a part of normal review of the demand, supply and price behaviour of various commodities, the Forward Markets Commission makes recommendations for commencing|resuming futures|forward trading in various commodities including edible oils etc. The views of the concerned Ministries are sought on the recommendations of the Forward Markets Commission. In the case of edible oils, the views of the Technology Mission on Oil Seeds have been received on the futures traing in edible oils and these are under consideration of this Ministry.

Selling of 'Cilcoke' through public Distribution System

2310. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sell a new domestic fuel i.e. the smoke less 'Cilcoke' through the Public Distribution System in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Central Government has no proposal for inclusion of 'Cilcoke' in the commodities sold through Public Distribution System. Efforts are being made to persuade the State Governments to come forward and popularise use of CILCOKE or domestic consumption.

2311. [Transferred to 19th March, 1993].

Alignment of Indian Standard with European Community

2312. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTSIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to align Indian standard with European Community;

(b) if so, what steps are being envisaged in this direction and by when such proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) what are the benefits that are likely to accrue from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards has already undertaken, as an ongoing activity, the harmonisation of Indian Standards with European Standards and EEC Directives and Regulations.

(c) It would improve the credibility of Indian products and thus promote exports to EEC countries.

Fire in Jharia coal fields

2313. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 185 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th December, 1992 and state:

(a) what are the details of damage and lose caused by these fires;

(b) what steps Government have so far taken to deal with the problem of fires in Jharia; mines and

(c) what is the quantity of coal reserves blocked and damaged due to these fires during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The main problem of fires exist in Jharia Coalfield of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. It is difficult to make precise estimate of loss of coal reserves caused by these fires during last years. However, about four years ago, the coal company had estimated that coal reserves to an extent of about 37 million tonnes might have been damaged in these fires. Coal reseves damaged in these fires would be of the order of Rs. 1,100 crores at 1989 prices. The World Bank has since agreed to provide financial and technical assistance or a diagnostic study for development of programme to deal with the coalfield fires. I.D.A. credit for US dollar 12 million has recently been approved for the Technical Assistance Project.

Danger faced by Raniganj township

2314. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH;
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the 'Sunday Observer' of January 10—16, 1993, under the heading "Raniganj Coalfields Subsidence—a disaster waiting to happen";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the concerned State Governments of West Bengal and Bihar are not taking the responsibility for development works in Raniganj area, if so, what are the facts and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that a major portion ofcess and royalty have been taken away from the State Governments by the Centre; and

(e) if so, what are the facts and detals in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An incidence of surface subsidence in the Harishpur area near Dhandadih Openeast project and occurred on 14-12-1992. The area involved erstwhile Madhabpur colliery which was reported to have been abandoned by erstwhile private owners prior to 1940s. This area was declared unsafe by a Committee set up by the Government in 1978.

(c) Major subsidence prone areas are located in Raniganj coalfield in the State of West Bengal. In other coalfields, there are not too many areas which can be considered as unsafe. In the State of Bihar, the problem is that of coalfield fires in Jharia coalfield. Effective steps are being taken to deal with it.

So far as subsidene aspect is concerned, the State Government of West Bengal had enacted a legislation for prevention of construction of the areas declared unsafe. An Apex Monitoring Committee constituted by Coal India Limited for examination of unsafe areas has completed the survey and declared certain localities in Raniganj coalfield as unsafe for habitation. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has taken up formulation of schemes for dealing with each unsafe locality subject to availability of funds.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, some adjustments of dues towards supply of coal to public utilities of State Governments are being made